

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSCE-00 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01 OMB-01 RSR-01

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R 300401Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6566

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 15627

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJ: MR 2 SITREP, AUG 29

FOLLOWING SENT WCPIMN WE SAIGON IMMEDIATE INFO USDAO SAIGON
USSAG NKP RTAFB FROM NHA TRANG AUGUST 29 BEING REPEATED
FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE:

NHA TRANG 0801

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 SITREP, AUGUST 29

1. SECURITY SITUATION: MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR 2 DECREASED
SLIGHTLY OVER THE PAST 48 HOURS, BUT STILL REMAINED AT A
RELATIVELY HIGH LEVEL. THERE WERE 35 INCIDENTS REPORTED,
MOST OF THEM ENEMY-INITIATED ATTACKS BY FIRE. ACTION WAS
CONCENTRATED IN BINH DINH, KONTUM, PHU YEN AND PLEIKU. BINH
THUAN, QUANG DUC, KHANH HOA AND NINH THUAM EACH HAD ONE REPORTED
INCIDENT. ENEMY SHELLING OF TAM QUAN, BINH DINH, ON AUG 27
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CLAIMED 7 CIVILIANS KILLED AND 20 WOUNDED (SEE SPOT REPORT

AUGUST 28, NHA TRANG 0797). ENEMY LOSSES WERE DOWN AND RVNAF CASUALTIES INCREASED, BUT THE BALANCE REMAINED IN RVNAF'S FAVOR: VC/NVA: 19 IA; RVNAF: 9 KIA, 59 WIA. THE RVNAF REPORTED CAPTURING 4 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS. AIR STRIKES DECREASED, AND WERE LIMITED TO BINH DINH: 16 ON AUGUST 27 AND 18 ON AUGUST 28.

2. CONSUL AT KONTUM REPORTS THAT THE 45TH REGT OF THE 23RD DIV IS NOW BEING RELIEVED BY ELEMENTS OF THE 42ND CEGT OF THE 22ND DIV (SEE NHA TRANG 0764 REPEATED AS SAIGON 14606 FOR THE TRANSFER OF THE 42ND FROM BINH DINH TO THE HIGHLANDS). (YESTERDAY GEN TOAN TOLD THE ACTING CONSUL GENERAL HE PLANNED TO DO THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND THEN GO ON THE PUSH THE ENEMY BACK ACROSS THE POKO YA Krong BOLAH RIVER. ONE BATHALUON OF THE 42ND HAS ALREADY MOVED INTO THE 45TH'S POSITIONS ON THE TRUNG NGHIA FRONT, AND THE ENTIRE ROTATION EXERCISE SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN A DAY OR TWO. THE RTTH WILL REPLACE THE 53RD NORTHWEST OF KONTUM CITY, AND THE 53RD IN TURN WILL MOVE TO PLEIKU AND FILL THE GAPS CREATED BY THE DEPARTURE LBF SLEMENTS IN THE 42ND FOR KONTUM.

3. THIS IS WELL-DESERVED RELIEF FOR THE 45TH. THEY HAVE BEEN LOCKED IN COMBAT WITH THE ENEMY ON THE TRUNG NGHIA FRONT SINCE THAT BATTLE BEGAN ALMOST TWO MONTHS AGO, AND THEY HAVE SUFFERED OVER HALF THE CASUALTIES OF THAT CAMPAIGN. ENEMY PRESSURE HAS MADE IT HUMPOSSIBLE TO RELIEVE THEM BEFORE, BUT RECENT FRIENDLY ACTION TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH OF TRUNG NGHIA (SEE AUGUST 24 SITREP NHA TRANG 0793) SEEMS TO HAVE DIVERTED THE ENEMY JUST ENOUGH TO ALLOW THE ROTATION.

4. CASUALTY STATISTICS FOR THE INCIDENT REPORTED IN PARA 2 OF OUR SITREP OF AUGUST 27 (NHA TRANG 0795) WHICH RECORDED 56 ENEMY KIA IN A BATTLE ON AUG 26 WITH THE 4RD CO, 4TH BN OF THE 45TH REGT EIGHT KM WEST OF KONTUM, HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATED BY THE CONSUL AT KONTUM WHO REPORTS THAT THEY APPEAR BONA FIDE.
COOK
UNQUOTE.
APPLING

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NNN

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